

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /069 W

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P R 231316Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8686

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 1134

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, FI

SUBJECT: SORSA GOVERNMENT EXPECTED RESIGN SOON

1. THE MEMBERS OF FOUR PARTY COALITION GOVERNMENT HEADED BY PRIMIN SORSA ARE REPORTED TO HAVE DECIDED TO ASK PRESIDENT KEKKONEN TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT AND CALL EARLY ELECTIONS. NO PRECISE DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR MAKING THIS REQUEST, BUT MAY 29-30 CONSIDERED MOST LIKELY. REQUEST MEANS IN EFFECT GOVT SUBMITTING ITS RESIGNATION. THEORETICAL CHANCE REMAINS THAT KEKKONEN WILL DECIDE TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT STILL IN MAY, WHICH WOULD MEAN AUGUST ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, ODDS HEAVILY FAVOR HIS WAITING UNTIL JUNE, WITH ELECTIONS THEN FALLING INTO SEPTEMBER.

2. MAIN RESONS FOR LIKELIHOOD KEKKONEN WILL HOLD OFF UNTIL JUNE IS THAT HE WILL THEN HAVE BETTER PICTURE OF WHEN CSCE PHASE III MIGHT BE HELD; THAT PARLIAMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE FINISH WORK ON LEGISLATION HE HAS CALLED FOR UNTIL SOME TIME IN

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JUNE; AND HIS DESIRE TO AVOID BEING BLAMED IF

SOCIALIST PARTIES FARED BADLY IN AUGUST ELECTION--
AUGUST BEING CONSIDERED POOR MONTH FOR THEM,
BECAUSE OF VACATION EXODUS FROM FINLAND. FINNISH
CSCE REPRESENTATIVE ILONIEMI NOW IN HELSINKI TO
BRING KEKKONEN UP TO DATE ON CSCE PROBABILITIES PRIOR
TO PRESEIDENT" DECISION.

3. IF SORSA GOVT ASKS FOR ELECTIONS AND KEKKONEN
DOES NOT DESSOLVE PARLIAMENT IN MAY, EKKKKONEN UNDER
CONSTITUTION CULD WAIT TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT UNTIL
END OF JUNE AND STILL HAVE ELECTIONS IN SEPT. HE
ALSO HAS OPTION TO ASK SORSA GOVT TO CONTINUE FOR
TIME BEING, OR UNTIL PARLIAMENT COMPLETES ITS WORK.
IT IS CONSIDERED POSSIBLE THAT HE WILL DO SO BUT
SORSA GOVT CLEARLY WANTS TO BE DISCHARGED WELL BEFORE
ELECTIONS.

4. KEKKONEN THEREFORE LIKELY TO APPOINT AN INTERIM
"EXPERTS" CARETAKER GOVT SOMETIME IN JUNE, WITH
HELSINKI MAYOR AURA STILL FRONT-RUNNER TO BECOME
PM. THIS GOVT COULD SIT SEVERAL MONTHS AND INTO
POST-ELECTION PERIOD SINCE NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW
COALITION GOVT EXPECTED BE DIFFICULT AND PROTRACTED.

5. SORSA GOVT ON MAY 26 CLIMBS INTO SECOND PLACE
IN LONGEVITY TABLES OF FINNISH GOVERNMENTS AND WILL
PROBABLY REACH VENERABLE AGE OF 1,000 DAYS IN OFFICE
NEXT WEEK BEFORE QUIRRING. IT ALSO EXPECTED TO
RETIRE GRACEFULLY, WITHOUT ANY ONE PARTNER
BREAKING IT APART ACRIMONIOUSLY OVER A PARTICULAR
ISSUE AS HAS USUALLY BEEN THE CASE WITH FINNISH
COALITIONS.
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